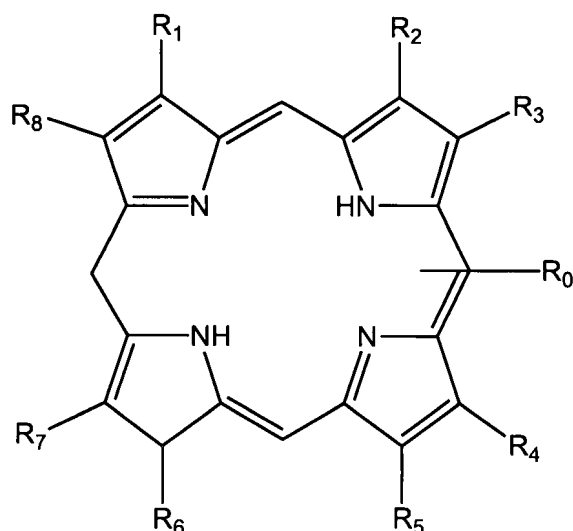


**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 288, 289, 297 and 298.

287. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A labeling reagent comprising a nonmetallic porphyrin, said reagent comprising:



wherein R<sub>0</sub> is a reactive group and is attached directly or indirectly to any one of the four non-pyrrole positions of said nonmetallic porphyrin, and R<sub>1</sub> through R<sub>8</sub> independently comprise hydrogen, aliphatic, unsaturated aliphatic, cyclic, heterocyclic, aromatic, heteroaromatic, charged or polar groups, or any combinations of the foregoing, wherein said reactive group R<sub>0</sub> comprises sulfhydryl, hydroxyl, amine, isothiocyanate, isocyanate, monochlorotriazine, dichlorotriazine, mono- or di-halogen substituted pyridine, mono- or di-halogen substituted diazine, maleimide, aziridine, sulfonylhalide, acid halide, hydroxysuccinimide ester, hydroxysulfosuccinimide ester, imidoester, hydrazine, azidonitrophenyl, azide, 3-(2-pyridyldithio)-propionamide, glyoxal or aldehyde.

288. (CANCELED)

289. (CANCELED)

290. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 287, wherein as a reactive group  $R_0$  is capable of forming a carbon-carbon linkage with a target.

291. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 287, wherein said reactive group  $R_0$  comprises an alkene group, an alkyne group or a halogenated compound.

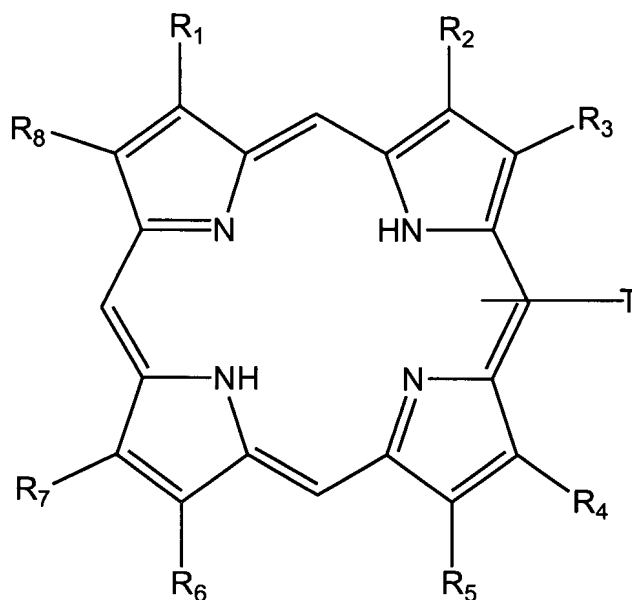
292. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 287, wherein any of said  $R_1$  through  $R_8$  alkyl groups comprises methyl, ethyl or propyl.

293. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 287, wherein any of said  $R_1$  through  $R_8$  alkyl groups further comprises a polar or charged group.

294. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 287, wherein said reactive group  $R_0$  is attached indirectly to said nonmetallic porphyrin through a linker arm.

295. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 294, wherein said linker arm comprises at least two consecutive peptide bonds.

296. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A labeled target comprising a nonmetallic porphyrin, said reagent comprising:



wherein T is a target molecule attached directly or indirectly to any one of the four non-pyrrole positions of said nonmetallic porphyrin and R<sub>1</sub> through R<sub>8</sub> independently comprise hydrogen, aliphatic, unsaturated aliphatic, cyclic, heterocyclic, aromatic, heteroaromatic, charged or polar groups, or any combinations of the foregoing, wherein said target T comprises a nucleic acid, a nucleotide or a nucleic analog, a receptor, a hormone, a lymphokine, a cytokine, a toxin, a carbohydrate, a sugar or an oligo- or polysaccharide.

297. (CANCELED)

298. (CANCELED)

299. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeled target of claim 296 ~~298~~, wherein said nucleic acid or nucleotide or nucleotide analog is modified.

300. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 296, wherein any of said  $R_1$  through  $R_8$  alkyl groups comprises methyl, ethyl or propyl.

301. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 296, wherein any of said  $R_1$  through  $R_8$  alkyl groups further comprises a polar or charged group.

302. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 296, wherein said target T is attached indirectly to said nonmetallic porphyrin through a linker arm.

303. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The labeling reagent of claim 302, wherein said linker arm comprises at least two consecutive peptide bonds.

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